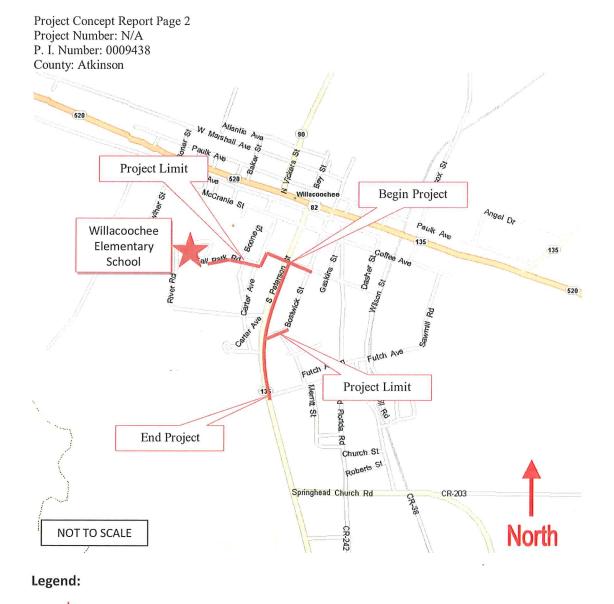
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION STATE OF GEORGIA

PROJECT CONCEPT REPORT ***SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL***

County: Atkinson
P. I. Number: 0009438
Federal Route Number: N/A
State Route Number: N/A



Project Limits

Project Location Map

Project Number: N/A P.I. Number: 0009438 Atkinson County, GA

Source: Microsoft Streets & Trips 2006

School Location

Willacoochee Elementary School Safe Routes to School Project Concept Report Page 3 Project Number: N/A P. I. Number: 0009438 County: Atkinson

Need and Purpose:

This project is a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) infrastructure project that will improve pedestrian accessibility for students within a two-mile radius of Willacoochee Elementary School in Atkinson County. The school is located on S. Vickers Street, approximately 0.3 miles west of SR 135 in the City of Willacoochee.

The SRTS infrastructure program administered by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is intended to promote walking and bicycling by students living within a two-mile radius of a school. The desired outcomes of the SRTS infrastructure program include increased health and fitness for students, as well as safety and environmental benefits for the community at large.

Willacoochee Elementary School has a student population of approximately 330 students. Of those students, more than 80 live within a half-mile of the school, more than 130 live within one-mile of the school and more than 185 live within a two-mile radius of the school. Approximately four percent of these students are walking or bicycling to school. S. Vickers Street and Savannah Avenue are among the two highest traveled walking routes as the City of Willacoochee stated in the SRTS application.

One of the greatest challenges for pedestrians and bicyclist traveling along Savannah Avenue to Willacoochee Elementary is crossing SR 135. The posted speed on SR 135 south of Project Street is 50 miles per hour (mph), 45 mph from Project Street to Bostwick and 35 from Bostwick north to Corridor Z (US 82/SR 520). School zone speeds are posted as 25 mph on SR 135 north of Project Street to just north of McCranie Street. The average daily traffic on SR 135 is projected at approximately 3600 vehicles per day in 2010 and 3650 vehicles per day in 2012. Project Street and Bostwick Street provide access to a public housing complex east of SR 135 on Project Street.

SR 135 in Willacoochee is a two lane rural arterial that carries a high volume of truck traffic. Sidewalks accompanied by curb and gutter exist from approximately half a block south of Savannah Ave north to Corridor Z (US 82/SR 520). Savannah Avenue, S. Vickers Street, Bostwick Street and Project Street are all rural local roads with no sidewalks or curb and gutter along the streets.

The project will improve pedestrian accessibility with the installation of sidewalk accompanied by curb and gutter along SR135 from the end of existing curb and gutter south to Carter Avenue on the west side and south to Project Street on the east side. Sidewalks will also be installed along Project Street, Bostwick Street, Savannah Avenue, and S. Vickers Street. The intersection of SR 135 and Savannah Avenue will be improved through installation of high visibility crosswalks with ADA-compliant curb ramps, a pedestrian refuge island in SR 135, and rectangular rapid flashing beacons to alert motorists to pedestrians crossing SR 135. Due to the existing posted speed limit of 35 mph on SR 135 at the intersection and a vehicle volume of less than 4,000 vehicles per day, this location can be considered a candidate site for a marked crosswalk per the FHWA report "Safety Effects of Marked Versus Unmarked Crosswalks at Uncontrolled Locations". The rectangular rapid flashing beacons will draw additional attention

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to crossing pedestrians that may not have been previously expected by passenger vehicles and trucks travelling along SR 135 in this area.

The project will also benefit bicyclists under the age of 12, who will be able use the proposed sidewalks for cycling. Georgia code states that local jurisdictions such as the City of Willacoochee may allow operation of bicycles on sidewalks by persons less than 12 years of age through local ordinance. Along Peggy Hill-Delmar Street, Bostwick Street and Savannah Avenue, bicycle signage will be installed to guide students biking to school from neighborhoods east of SR 135. D11-1c (Bike route to school) signs per the current Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices will be installed along these streets.

The parking lot at Willacoochee Elementary School will also be improved by installing marked crosswalks with ADA-compliant curb ramps across the drive aisles, and by marking a pedestrian pathway through the existing parking areas.

Other Projects in the Area:

• Resurfacing and Maintenance of SR 135 from Alapaha River Overflow to SR 520/US 82 (CSSTP-M003-00(893), PI# M003893)

Description of the proposed project:

This project consists of installation of new sidewalks, crosswalks, and pedestrian signage in the vicinity of Willacoochee Elementary School in Willacoochee, Georgia.

Existing sidewalks along SR 135/Peterson Street in Willacoochee currently begin at US 82/Corridor Z and extend one-half block south of Savannah Avenue, a principal local street route to the school. The proposed project will extend the sidewalk along the east side of SR 135 south approximately 1900 feet to Project Street, and along the west side of SR 135 south approximately 1200 feet to Carter Avenue.

New sidewalk will also be installed along Savannah Avenue from Bostwick Street to S. Vickers Street, along S. Vickers Street from Savannah Avenue to Willacoochee Elementary School, along Bostwick Street from SR 135 to Peggy Hill-Delmar Street, and along Project Street from SR 135 to Peggy Hill-Delmar Street. Crosswalks and stop bars will be installed across Savannah Avenue, Carter Avenue, Bostwick Street, Perkins Street, and Project Street at their intersections with SR 135. Bicycle route signage will be installed along Peggy Hill-Delmar Street, Bostwick Street, and Savannah Avenue to guide children biking to school from neighborhoods east of SR 135.

In addition to sidewalks, curb and gutter will be installed along the sections of SR 135 where sidewalk is being installed. Along all other streets, sidewalks will be constructed in the existing graded shoulder without curb and gutter. High-visibility crosswalks, pedestrian signage, concrete pedestrian refuge island, and rectangular rapid flashing beacons will be installed at the intersection of SR 135 and Savannah Avenue. The concrete pedestrian refuge island will be six

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feet in width and 30 feet in length with an 8-foot gap for the crosswalk. At the island, the cross section will include the six foot wide island and will include two-feet of striping on either side of the island and 12-foot lanes in each direction.

The existing school parking lot will be improved by installing marked crosswalks with ADA-compliant curb ramps across the drive aisles, and by marking a pedestrian pathway through the existing parking area. ADA-compliant ramps and/or landing pads will be constructed at all crosswalks within the project limits.

Is the project located in a PM 2.5 Non-attainment area?YesXNo
Is this project located in an Ozone Non-attainment area? Yes X No The project is intended to improve bicycle and pedestrian mobility and will not affect roadwa capacity. The project is not required to be included in the conforming plan's model.
PDP Classification: Major (), Minor (X)

Functional Classification:

• SR 135/Peterson Street: Rural Minor Arterial

See attachment #4 for project concept layout.

• Savannah Avenue, S Vickers Street, Bostwick Street: Rural Local Roads

Federal Oversight: Full Oversight (), Exempt(X), State Funded(), or Other ()

U. S. Route Number(s): _N/A	State Route Number(s): 135
Traffic (ADT): <u>N/A</u>	

Existing design features:

- Existing Typical Section
 - SR 135/Peterson Street: One 12' travel lane in each direction. North of Perkins St, SR 135/Peterson Street has urban shoulders with header curb, variable width grassed strip with sidewalk on both sides. South of Perkins St, SR 135/Peterson Street has rural shoulders with ditches.
 - o Savannah Avenue: One 11' travel lane in each direction, and rural shoulders.
 - O S Vickers Street: One 11' travel lane in each direction, and rural shoulders.
 - Bostwick Street: One 11' travel lane in each direction, and rural shoulders.
- Posted Speed
 - o SR 135/Peterson Street: 35-45 mph
 - o Savannah Avenue: 25 mph
 - o S Vickers Street: 25 mph
 - o Bostwick Street: 25 mph

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Width of Right-of-Way

In order to be eligible for Safe Routes to School funding, the local government has demonstrated that adequate existing right-of-way is available to construct the proposed project.

o SR 135/Peterson Street: 80 feet (assumed)

o Savannah Avenue: 50 feet (assumed)

o S Vickers Street: 50 feet (assumed)

o Bostwick Street: 50 feet (assumed)

• Major Structures: None

• Major Interchanges or Intersections along the Project: None

Proposed Design Features:

- Proposed Typical Section:
 - OSR 135/Peterson Street: One 11' travel lane in each direction, 30" curb and gutter with a 2' grass strip and 5' sidewalk on the east side of the street. At the intersection of Savannah Avenue, a 6' wide, raised concrete pedestrian island will be installed with one 11' travel lane in each direction, 30" curb and gutter with a 2' grass strip and a 5' sidewalk on each side of the street.
 - Savannah Avenue: One 11-12' travel lane in each direction, a 2' grass strip and 5' sidewalk on the south side of the street.
 - O S Vickers Street: One 11-12' travel lane in each direction, a 2' grass strip and 5' sidewalk on the west/north side of the street.
 - o Bostwick Street: One 11-12' travel lane in each direction, a 2' grass strip and 5' sidewalk on the north of the street.
- Proposed Design Speed:
 - o SR 135/Peterson Street: 45 mph
 - o Savannah Avenue, S Vickers Street, Bostwick Street: 25 mph
- Proposed Sidewalk Cross Slope: 2%
- Proposed Crosswalk Width: 8-feet
- Right of way
 - o Easements: Temporary (), Permanent (), Utility (), Other ().
 - o Type of access control: N/A
 - o Number of parcels: 0
 - o Number of displacements:
- o Business: None
- o Residences: None
- o Mobile homes: None
- O Other: None

- Structures: N/A
- Major Interchanges or Intersections along the Project: None
- Traffic control during construction: No lane closures are anticipated along SR 135/Peterson Street, Savannah Avenue, S Vickers Street, and Bostwick Street.

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• Design Exceptions to controlling criteria anticipated:

	UNDETERMINED	YES	NO
HORIZONTAL ALIGNMENT:	()	()	(X)
ROADWAY WIDTH:	()	()	(X)
SHOULDER WIDTH:	()	()	(X)
VERTICAL GRADES:	()	()	(X)
CROSS SLOPES:	()	()	(X)
STOPPING SIGHT DISTANCE:	()	()	(X)
SUPERELEVATION RATES:	()	()	(X)
HORIZONTAL CLEARANCE:	()	()	(X)
SPEED DESIGN:	()	()	(X)
VERTICAL CLEARANCE:	()	()	(X)
BRIDGE WIDTH:	()	()	(X)
BRIDGE STRUCTURAL CAPAC	CITY: ()	()	(X)
LATERAL OFFSET TO OBSTRU	JCTION: ()	()	(X)

- Design Variances: None Anticipated
- Environmental concerns:
 - O While a stream exists towards the south end of the project near SR 135/Peterson Street and Project Avenue, no impacts are anticipated.
- Level of environmental analysis:
 - O Are Time Savings Procedures appropriate? Yes (X), No (),
 - O Categorical exclusion: Anticipated
 - O Environmental Assessment/Finding of No Significant Impact(FONSI): ()
 - O Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) ().
- Utility involvements:
 - O Utility facilities located within the project limits include:
 - Gas (Atlanta Gas Light)
 - Power (Georgia Power)
 - Water (City of Willacoochee)
 - Telecommunications (AT&T, Comcast, Verizon)

VE Study Required:

Yes()

No(X)

Benefit/Cost Ratio: N/A.

Project Cost Estimate and Funding Responsibilities:

	PE	ROW	UTILITY	CST*	MITIGATION
By Whom	GDOT	N/A	N/A	GDOT	N/A
\$ Amount	\$55,000.00	N/A	N/A	\$392,627.90	N/A

^{*}CST Cost includes: Construction, Engineering and Inspection.

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Project Activities Responsibilities:

- Design: Consultant/GDOT
- Right-of-Way Acquisition: N/A
- Right-of-Way funding (real property): N/A
- Relocation of Utilities: GDOT/Affected Utility Owners
- Letting to contract: GDOT
- Supervision of construction: GDOT
- Providing material pits: Contractor
- Providing detours: N/A
- Environmental Studies/Documents/Permits: Consultant/GDOT
- Environmental Mitigation: GDOT

Coordination

- Concept Meeting date and brief summary: 04/29/2010 Minutes Attached
- P. A. R. meetings, dates and results: None Required
- FEMA, USCG, and/or TVA: N/A
- Public involvement: N/A
- Local government comments: N/A
- Other projects in the area:
 - O Resurfacing and Maintenance of SR 135 from Alapaha River Overflow to SR 520/US 82 (CSSTP-M003-00(893), PI# M003893)
- Other coordination to date: N/A

Sc	heduling – Responsible Parties' Estimate	Anticipated T	ime Frame
•	Time to complete the environmental process:	Begin: 4/10	End: 3/11
•	Time to complete preliminary construction plans:	Begin: 10/10	End: 5/11
•	Time to complete right-of-way plans:	Begin: n/a	End: n/a
•	Time to complete the Section 404 Permit:	Begin: n/a	End: n/a
•	Time to complete final construction plans:	Begin: 5/11	End: 8/11
•	Time to complete the purchase of right-of-way:	Begin: n/a	End: n/a
•	List other major items that will affect the project schedule:	Begin: n/a	End: n/a

Alternates considered: (1) Extend the sidewalk along the east side of SR 135 south approximately 1900 feet to Project Street, and along the west side of SR 135 south approximately 1200 feet to Carter Avenue. Install new sidewalk along Savannah Avenue from Bostwick Street to S. Vickers Street, along S. Vickers Street from Savannah Avenue to Willacoochee Elementary School, along Bostwick Street from SR 135 to Peggy Hill-Delamar Street, and along Project Street from SR 135 to Peggy Hill-Delamar Street. Install curb and gutter along the sections of SR 135 where sidewalk is being installed. Along all other streets, install sidewalks in the existing graded shoulder without curb and gutter. Install high-visibility crosswalks, pedestrian signage, and a pedestrian refuge island at the intersection of SR 135 and Savannah Avenue. Construct ADA-compliant ramps and/or landing pads at intersections within the project limits.

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- (2) Install improvements as described in Alternative 1. In addition, install a traffic signal at US 82/Corridor Z and SR 135.
- (3) Extend the sidewalk along both sides of SR 135 south approximately 1900 feet to Project Street. Install new sidewalk along Savannah Avenue from Bostwick Street to S. Vickers Street, along S. Vickers Street from Savannah Avenue to Willacoochee Elementary School, and along Project Street from SR 135 to Peggy Hill-Delamar Street. Install curb and gutter along the sections of SR 135 where sidewalk is being installed. Along all other streets, install sidewalks in the existing graded shoulder without curb and gutter. Install high-visibility crosswalks and pedestrian signage at the intersection of SR 135 and Savannah Avenue. Construct ADA-compliant ramps and/or landing pads at intersections within the project limits.

(4) No Build.

Comments:

Comparison Summary of Alternates 1-4

Alternate (1) is recommended for this concept.

Alternate (2) is not recommended for this concept. The City of Willacoochee and the GDOT District 4 office previously determined that a traffic signal is not warranted based on vehicle and pedestrian volumes at the intersection, as described in the City's application for SRTS funding submitted to GDOT in December 2008.

Alternate (3) is not recommended for this concept because of the improvements that would be necessary to the existing culvert on the west side of SR 135 near Project Street. This would create significant impact to properties along SR 135, as well as significant increases in construction, right of way, and utility relocation costs.

Alternate (4) is not recommended for this concept. The no-build alternate would not promote safe walking and bicycling for children attending Willacoochee Elementary School, as stated in the project need and purpose.

Attachments:

- 1. Construction Cost Estimate
- 2. Concept Team Meeting Minutes (04/29/2010)
- 3. Concept Layout
- 4. Typical Sections

STATE HIGHWAY AGENCY

DATE : 11/10/2010 PAGE : 1

JOB ESTIMATE REPORT

SPEC YEAR: 01 DESCRIPTION: WILLACOOCHEE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SRTS JOB NUMBER : 0009438

ITEMS FOR JOB 0009438

LINE	ITEM	ALT	UNITS	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	PRICE	AMOUNT
0004	001-1999		 	CONSTRUCTION ENGR INSPECTION 5%	1.000	18696.56	18696 57
0005	150-1000		SI	TRAFFIC CONTROL - 0009438	1.000	20000.00	20000.00
0010	163-0232		AC	TEMPORARY GRASSING	1.000	800.00	800.00
0012	165-0030		LF	MAINT OF TEMP SILT FENCE, TP C	3090.000	2.00	6180.00
0020	171-0030		LF	TEMPORARY SILT FENCE, TYPE C	6175.000	4.00	24700.00
0025	210-0100		LS	GRADING COMPLETE - 0009438	1.000	30000.00	30000.00
0030	441-0104		SY	CONC SIDEWALK, 4 IN	3320.000	36.00	119520.00
0035	441-0302		EA	CONC SPILLWAY, TP 2	7.000	2075.90	14531.36
0040	441-0748		SY	CONC MEDIAN, 6 IN	10.000	44.00	440.00
0045	441-6222		LF	CONC CURB & GUITER/ 8"X30"IP2	3035.000	45.00	136575.00
0000	636-1033		SF	HWY SIGNS, TP1MAT, REFL SH TP 9	180.000	19.33	3479.97
0055	636-2070		LF	GALV STEEL POSTS, TP 7	260.000	00.6	2340.00
0900	653-1501		LF	THERMO SOLID TRAF ST 5 IN, WHI	1000.000	1.00	1000.00
0065	653-1502		LF	THERMO SOLID TRAF ST, 5 IN YEL	1000.000	1.00	1000.00
0000	653-1704		LF	THERM SOLID TRAF STRIPE, 24", WH	120.000	5.00	600.00
0075	653-1804		LF	THERM SOLID TRAF STRIPE, 8", WH	765.000	2.00	1530.00
0080	700-6910		AC	PERMANENT GRASSING	1.000	1235.00	1235.00
0085	647-1000		LS	TRAF SIGNAL INSTALLATION NO - 1	1.000	10000.00	10000.00
				(RRFB'S)			
ITEM	ITEM TOTAL	i ! !	 			392627 89	
INFLA	INFLATED ITEM TOTAL					392627.89	
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1 1	0 FOR 000 000 433						
ESTIM	ESTIMATED COST:					392627.90	
CONTI	CONTINGENCY PERCENT (0.0	:			00.0	
ESTIN	ESTIMATED TOTAL:					392627.90	

MEETING MINUTES

Date:

April 29, 2010

Project:

Willacoochee Elementary School SRTS

GDOT Project No.:

PI 0009438

County: Subject:

Atkinson Concept Team Meeting

Attendees:

Sue Anne Decker

Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT)

Scott Purvis

GDOT

Van Mason

GDOT

Lace Futch

City of Willacoochee

Bob Brown

Willacoochee Elementary Principal Southeast Georgia Regional Comission

Michael Jacobs Nykia Burke

GDOT Safe Routes to School Resource Center

Stuart Day

Kimley-Horn and Associates (KHA)

Sean Johnston

KHA

John Cock

Alta Planning + Design (Alta)

This Safe Routes to School concept team meeting was held on Thursday, April 29, 2010 at Willacoochee City Hall and in the vicinity of Willacoochee Elementary School in Willacoochee, Georgia to discuss the sponsor's application and concepts for proposed infrastructure improvements in the vicinity of the school. The proposed project consists of sidewalk and intersection modifications to improve conditions for children walking and bicycling to school.

The meeting began with a group discussion at Willacoochee City Hall, which included the following key items:

- KHA gave an overview of plan development process milestones, which include concept development (i.e. 30% design), environmental documentation, construction drawing preparation (including a Final Field Plan Review at 90% design), and letting to construction. It is GDOT and KHA's goal to complete this process within two years, with six to nine months expected for construction. This is an expedited timeframe for a process that could normally take three to six years.
- KHA gave an overview of the design teams' understanding of the project. The scope includes adding sidewalks along SR 135 where the sidewalk currently ends to Carter Avenue on the west side and Project Street on the east side. Sidewalks would also be added on the south side of Savannah Avenue and the north side of S Vickers Street. A safe crossing at SR 135 and Savannah Avenue would be provided that would include crosswalks, signage, and curb ramps.
- The sponsor's priorities are getting the sidewalk south and to the school, and if funding remains, into the neighborhoods east of SR 135. If funding remains, a crossing at Perkins Street or Bostick Street could be considered.

- The question was raised whether the funding for this project could be used to fund crossing guards. KHA noted that the funding for this project is strictly for infrastructure, however local police forces could potentially be used to train residents as crossing guards.
- It was also discussed that the high school bus pick up/drop off is at the intersection of SR 135 and Savannah Avenue, thus providing an added benefit from a safe crossing at this location.

The group then performed a site walk along the proposed project limits. Multiple options for improvements within the project limits were discussed. This discussion resulted in the following recommendations:

- Intersection of Savannah Avenue and SR 135:
 - Since the existing pavement width is approximately 36' wide, consideration should be given to a pedestrian refuge island or bulb-outs.
 - It was suggested to move the edgeline of the road towards the center to create narrower lanes for a traffic calming effect, as well as creating wider shoulders to accommodate cyclists.
 - The need to clear overgrown shrubs and brush on the sidewalk on the west side of SR 135 was noted.
 - The project will install high-visibility crosswalks and signage to provide a safe place for children to cross.
 - o ADA compliant ramps will also be included in the project for accessibility.

Sidewalks:

- Curb and gutter should be used when constructing sidewalks to prevent people from parking on the sidewalks and create more of a separation between vehicles and children.
- Extending sidewalk to Project Street was discussed, but determined to be unfeasible because of the existing stream and box culvert crossing SR 135. Because of the escalated construction costs associated with extending the box culver, it was decided that the logical termini for the sidewalk would be Bostwick Street.
- If possible sidewalks on the west side would be extended to this Bostwick Street as well, but currently unsure of stream buffer.
- It was also discussed that sidewalks would be constructed on Bostwick Street from SR 135 to Peggy Hill-Delamar Lane. Also, sidewalks would extend from SR 135 to Bostwick Avenue on the south side of Savannah Avenue.
- Storm drainage treatments along SR 135 were discussed. It was determined that concrete flumes with metal grates could be utilized in lieu of catch basins and longitudinal pipes in order to reduce costs and right-of-way impacts. Installation of catch basins may be problematic due to the flat topography, and flumes can outfall into the existing ditch behind the proposed sidewalk.
- The sidewalk going to the school was determined to be placed on the south side of Savannah Avenue from SR 135 to S Vickers Street. It is also proposed that a highly-visible crossing be placed at the intersection of Savannah Avenue and S Vickers Street so that sidewalk can be constructed on the housing authority property. Around the curve in S Vickers Street, a curb will be installed to protect

the sidewalk. Also, the sidewalk will go down to three feet in the corner to avoid impacting the existing pine tree.

- It was discussed that consideration should be given to moving the school zone flashing lights further south if crossing is provided near Project Avenue.
- Along all cross streets in the project, highly reflective stop bars should be painted to promote a safe stopping point that is safe for pedestrians.



